[25th April 1947

Control of cattle feed.

*170 Q.—MR. K. O. ANTHONI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any arrangements have been made by the Government to control cattle feed under the Essential Articles Control Act and, if so, what they are;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Madras Milkmen's Union have notified the Government about their intention to strike between 7th and 15th March 1947;

(*c*) if the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, what the demands of the Milkmen's Union are;

(*d*) whether the Government cannot control and ration cattle feed of all forms to all milkmen in the city; and

(*e*) whether the Government have taken any steps to call the representatives of the Milkmen's Union for effecting a settlement?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) 'Cattle feed' was not declared to be an essential commodity under the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946 (Central Act XXIV of 1946). The Madras Government requested the Government of India to declare the commodity to be an essential article under the Central Act by moving the Secretary of State to take necessary steps to secure parliamentary legislation in the matter. Meanwhile, with a view to facilitate immediate action to improve the unsatisfactory position of supply in regard to the distribution, prices, etc., of cattle feed, the Government have declared the commodity to be an essential article under the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946, and have delegated powers to the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and to all Collectors to control its movement, supply, distribution, etc., and also to requisition stocks if necessary.

" In order to ensure supplies of cotton seed to the consumers in the deficit districts a ban has been imposed on the inter-district movement of cotton seed except under permits from Collectors. The Collectors of Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevelly have been instructed to allow exports of cotton seeds on permits to the deficit districts of Coimbatore, Trichinopoly and Tanjore in the proportion of 2 :1 :1. The Collectors of other districts have been asked to allow merchants in their districts to export on permits to deficit districts of their choice within the Province if they had excessive stocks. All Collectors have been strictly ordered not to allow any exports outside the Province.

" (*b*) Yes. The Government received a notice of direct action, dated 18th February 1947, from the President of the Madras Milkmen's Union.

" (*c*) The demands of the Milkmen's Union are—

(1) control and rationing of all cattle feed by Government ;

25th April 1947]

(2) railway priorities for transport of cattle;

(3) abundant credit facilities to milkmen for purchase of cattle through co-operative organizations; and

(4) subsidy at 25 per cent for purchase of cattle fodder.

" (*d*) The Government have their hands full trying to enforce control of cereals, sugar and jaggery and it is not considered advisable to embark on statutory rationing of cattle feed at the present time. A system of informal rationing in Madras is considered sufficient and a scheme put forward by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies for the distribution of certain specific items of cattle feed to milkmen in the City is engaging the attention of the Government in the Development Department.

" (*e*) Yes. A conference was held on 8th March 1947, in which Hon. Minister (Food) and Hon. Minister (Industries and Labour) and the President of the Milkmen's Union were present. As a result of the discussions, the Collector of Madras has been asked to issue immediate instructions to the wholesalers in imported grams and pulses and other dhall merchants who hold stocks of husks of pulses, to sell their stocks at reasonable prices fixed by him exclusively to Madras Milk Supply Union to the full limit of its requirements, the balance only being allowed to be sold in the open market. The Government are investigating also the possibility of importing on their own account quantities of wheat bran at reasonable prices for distribution to the milkmen in the City. The following proposals of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies since received are under the active consideration of the Government :—

(*a*) that the Government may fix maximum ceiling prices of gingelly cake and issue instructions to the Collectors of surplus districts, viz., Coimbatore, Salem, Ramnad, Madura and Tinnevelly to fix their district rates and to instruct the wholesale dealers in the districts to hand over the quantities required to the Madras Milk-supply Union through its local agents, and

(*b*) that the Madras Milk-supply Union may be given permits for the purchase of groundnut oil cake from two of the important mills in Madras, viz., Messrs. East Asiatic Co., Ltd. and Ralli Brothers."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" May I know whether the Government have taken steps to import cotton seeds to this Province from outside this Province?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I have made a statement, Sir, that cotton seeds can be transported from district to district under permit. If the supply of cotton seeds runs short, and if procurement by Government becomes necessary, the Government will certainly approach the available markets outside the Province and import them."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" Do not the Government consider that there is an acute shortage of cotton seeds in the Province at present, and will they consider the urgent necessity of importing them from other Provinces? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" If the Government are informed of the shortage, they will adopt the procedure of buying cotton seeds from outside the Province and distribute them to the deficit areas."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Cannot the surplus cotton seeds available in the Bellary district be transported to the Tanjore district? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The surplus districts have been asked to supply them to the deficit districts if the demand is made by the Collector of the deficit district."

Employees in State Transport Bus Service.

* 171 Q.—ABDUL LATIFF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have supplied uniforms to drivers and conductors employed in the State Transport buses plying in the City of Madras;

(*b*) if so, the number of such sets supplied to each employee;

(*c*) the quantity of cloth used for making each such set; and

(*d*) whether the cloth used is mill-made, handloom or khodi?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (*a*) Both the drivers and conductors employed in the Government Bus Service are supplied with uniform at State cost;

" (*b*) Two sets are supplied to each employee;

" (*c*) The quantity of cloth used for each ranges from 7 to 8 yards including sash, according to the individuals concerned including cap;

" (*d*) The cloth used is mill-made (khaki obtained from B. & C. Mills, Madras)."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know, Sir, how the Government who are wedded to the policy of khadi, have allowed mill cloth to be used by its servants?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" The Government are at the same time committed to the policy of freedom of choice and so far as khadi cloth is concerned, hon. Members are aware that a certain quota of handspun yarn should be provided before khadi could be purchased. The Government are implementing an intensive campaign for the propagation of khadi and when that bears fruition, we hope and trust that the position will be improved and that the Government will be able to supply khadi to all its employees."